Reply to Office Action dated July 3, 2006

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and again examine the claims as amended.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 are rejected. Claims 17 and 18 are objected to. Claims 15, 17, and 18 are amended herein for reasons of clarity and not for reasons of patentability as will be apparent.

In the Specification

The Examiner objects to several paragraphs in the specification as containing typographical errors. Applicants have amended specification paragraphs as recited above, to address the Examiner's objections.

The Examiner also requests recitation of application number previously left blank in the specification. Applicants have amended specification paragraphs as recited above, to address the Examiner's objections.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the objections to the specification should be removed.

In the Drawing

The Examiner objects to the Drawing, asserting that reference designators 172, 176 are missing in the specification. Applicants have amended a specification paragraph above to add the missing reference designators.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the objection to the drawings should be removed.

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Claim Objections

The Examiner Objects to Claims 17 and 18, noting typographical errors. Claims 17 and 18 are amended herein to address the Examiner's objections.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the objection to Claims 17 and 18 should be removed.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Parad et al. in View of Pena-Mora et al.

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Parad et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,369,570) in view of Pena-Mora et al. "Dynamic Planning and Control Methodology for Design/Build Fast-Track Construction Projects" (Jan/Feb 2001).

Applicants would like to bring to the Examiner's attention a change of inventorship filed October 2, 2006, which added Michael Li and others as inventors in this application. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the Pena-Mora article used by the Examiner in the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and bring to the Examiner's attention that the authors of the article, Pena-Mora and Li, are both inventors in the present application. Applicants submit that, since the article was published less that twelve months before the priority date (June 14, 2001) of the present application, the Pena-Mora article is not a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Therefore, Applicants submit that the above rejection of Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot and should be removed.

Pena-Mora et al. #2 in View of Pena-Mora et al. #1

The Examiner rejects Claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pena-Mora et al., hereafter Pena-Mora et al. #2, in view of Pena-Mora et al. "Component-Based Software Development for Integrated Construction Management Software Applications," hereafter Pena-Mora et al. #1.

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For the reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claims 1-16, Applicants submit that the above rejection of Claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot and should be removed.

In view of the above Amendment and Remarks, Applicants submit that Claims 1-18 and the entire case are in condition for allowance and should be sent to issue and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigning attorney if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500845, including but not limited to, any charges for extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136.

Respectfully submitted,

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